

HERRIN POLICE DEPARTMENT



321 North 14th Street • Herrin, IL 62948-3199 • Phone 618-942-2106

August 27, 2024

Complaint: 24-0115

On 8/01/2024 I, Herrin PD Deputy Chief Salvador Tomas (0140) received an email from Herrin PD Chief David Dorris. The email was in reference to a complaint The ILESTB Board had received two citizen complaints against Chief David Dorris and Officer Tom Murrah (Complaint: 24-0115).

The complaint had been made by T [REDACTED] P [REDACTED] who is a resident in the city of Herrin IL. After reading the description of the incident I reviewed our outside cameras. I would like to note our outside cameras do not record any audio. While reviewing the cameras I observed a black in color SUV arrive to the Herrin Police Department and park the vehicle on the north side of the building on Adams St. Approximately 30 minutes later an orange in color SUV arrives and parks on the same side of the building next to the black SUV. Mr. P [REDACTED] states in his complaint that when he arrived he observed his kids running around in the roadway while A [REDACTED] was supervising them.

The cameras showed A [REDACTED] and the kids inside her SUV from the time of her arrival to the Herrin Police Department and only exit the vehicle when Mr. P [REDACTED] arrived to pick up his kids. When A [REDACTED] and the kids exit her vehicle one of the juveniles runs towards Mr. P [REDACTED] but changes his mind and runs back to his mother. It appeared that neither juvenile wanted to go with Mr. P [REDACTED]. For full details of the interaction see all attached video footage.

I later met with Officer Murrah and spoke to him about his incident. Here is a brief summary of Officer Murrah's statement. I would like to note this summary is not verbatim and does not include all details. A copy of his statement will be attached to this report.

Officer Murrah said on 07/11/2024 he observed on the camera monitor a dark in color SUV pull into the eastern end of the parking area on the north side of the building. Officer Murrah who was currently working as a dispatcher observed the monitor from time to time and only saw children moving around from time to time.

Officer Murrah said he then observed a copper in color vehicle in the north lot parked a short distance from the dark in color SUV. I asked Officer Murrah if anyone had come to the lobby to speak to anyone. Officer Murrah said at approximately 1925 hours he went outside to put his windows up in his vehicle as he had received a storm warning. While outside Officer Murrah said he spoke to T [REDACTED] and was asked about making a police report because his children would not

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go with him. Officer Murrah said he asked the kids why they wouldn't go with him and A [REDACTED] said the kids were mad because T [REDACTED] was late. Officer Murrah then asked if they had custody papers signed by a judge and they said no. Officer Murrah then told them there was nothing the police could do at that time. Officer Murrah then went inside.

Officer Murrah said at approximately 1935 hours he observed a black in color car pull up and park on 14th St in front of the police department. Officer Murrah said a one of the kids ran across the street to give the female a hug.

Officer Murrah said a short time later the female and T [REDACTED] came into the PD lobby and the female said they wanted to file a police report because T [REDACTED] did not get his visitation. Officer Murrah said he then attempted to explain that without the proper court papers signed by a judge it was not a police matter. Officer Murrah said T [REDACTED] was argumentative after Officer Murrah told them a police report was not going to be taken. Officer Murrah said T [REDACTED] asked about A [REDACTED] harassing him in the parking lot. Officer Murrah then told T [REDACTED] that "harassment" was not a criminal statute in Illinois. T [REDACTED] became angry and told Officer Murrah that it was because he was in law enforcement. Officer Murrah said T [REDACTED] asked for his name and badge number and were provided to T [REDACTED].

Officer Murrah said he later received a phone call from A [REDACTED], requesting us to make record of the incident. Officer Murrah explained to A [REDACTED] that until they had court papers signed by a judge she needed to keep her own records of custody issues.

Again this is only a summary of what Officer Murrah said.

I later spoke to Chief Dorris who said the following.

Chief Dorris said he received a voicemail from T [REDACTED] P [REDACTED]. The voicemail was in reference to Officer Murrah (Tom Murrah).

Chief Dorris said he spoke to T [REDACTED] via telephone. Chief Dorris said T [REDACTED] told him that Officer Murrah had violated his 4th amendment rights by not arresting his future ex-wife for Harassment and child visitation interference. Chief Dorris said he asked T [REDACTED] what his ex-wife had done to harass and child custody interference. Chief Dorris said T [REDACTED] said his future ex wife had allowed his two children to be playing in front of the Herrin Police Department's sally port without being supervised. T [REDACTED] also said she had harassed him about him driving drunk with his kids on the 4th of July while with his family friend who is an attorney. T [REDACTED] said Officer Murrah asked him if he had the child custody agreement signed by a judge and T [REDACTED]

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said no. T [REDACTED] then said he had to go to the Williamson County Sherrifs Office to file a harassment complaint.

Chief Dorris said after listening to his statement he advised him that the complaint he had told Chief Dorris did not qualify as a criminal complaint against his future ex wife and his 4th Amendment rights were not violated. Again for full details see Chiefs Dorris attached statement.

After watching all the video it appeared Mr. P [REDACTED] appeared to be upset because his kids would not go with him.

I would like to note all paperwork and video has also been given to ILETSB Field Investigator Brent Showens. The video will not be attached to this report because the files are too big to be sent via email.

I have nothing further at this time.

Herrin Police Department

Deputy Chief Salvador Tomas Badge #0140

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Salvador Tomas".

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FAX: 618.988.1624
WWW.HERRINPOLICE.COM

Illinois



To: Deputy Chief Salvador Tomas

From: Officer Tom Murrah

Reference: T [REDACTED] P [REDACTED]

On Thursday, 07/11/24, I, reporting officer Tom Murrah 6040, was working 1700-2100 hours shift as a telecommunicator at Herrin Police Department.

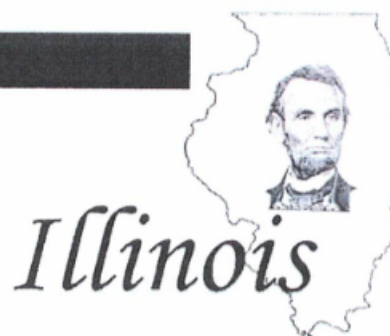
Slightly before 1830 hours I saw, on the camera monitor, a dark colored vehicle pull into the eastern end of the parking area on the north side of the building. After a short time, when nobody came into the police department, I checked the monitor again. The van was still there, but I was unable to see anyone around the van or the building. I watched and could from time to time see children moving around in the van and an adult in the driver's seat. I continued to check on the van periodically, and did not observe the occupants of the van outside the van until after the second vehicle arrived (see below).

Shortly after 1900 hours I observed that there was now a copper colored vehicle in the north lot, parked a short distance away from the van. At this time an adult male and an adult female were standing between the vehicles and two children were moving around in the area. For clarity in this report I will refer to the two adults by their names, T [REDACTED] (T [REDACTED] P [REDACTED] W/M) and A [REDACTED] (A [REDACTED] P [REDACTED] W/F), although during this incident I did not know their names.

A considerable amount of time passed and none of the people outside came into the police department. I continued to periodically observe them via monitor when I was not otherwise busy. From the postures of T [REDACTED] and A [REDACTED] it appeared that there was some sort of tension to the situation. I saw

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that T [REDACTED] often seemed to be video recording with his phone. I also saw that that despite both parents being present and being next to a street, often neither parent appeared to be actively supervising the children. On at least two occasions during the time they were at the PD I observed the children on the south side of the police department, although Angel was in the area with them.

At around 1925 hours I went outside to put the windows up on my car as we had received a storm warning. While I was outside T [REDACTED] asked me about making a police report because his children would not go with him for visitation. I asked the children why they would not go and A [REDACTED] answered that they were mad because T [REDACTED] was very late. I asked if they had custody papers signed by a judge. T [REDACTED] said they did not. I told them that without papers signed by a judge the police could do nothing in the situation. I then went back inside.

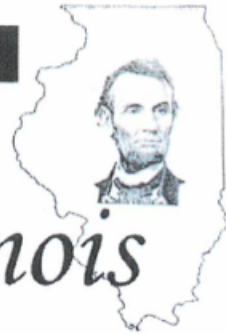
At about 1935 hours I observed a black car pull up and park on 14th street east of the police department. A W/F got out of the vehicle and one of the kids ran across the street and hugged her. I do not know this female's name, although she clearly knew all persons present during this incident.

Shortly before 1950 hours the unknown female and T [REDACTED] came into the PD lobby. The female said they wanted to make a police report because T [REDACTED] did not get his visitation. I attempted to explain again that without court papers signed by a judge it was not a police matter. T [REDACTED] was argumentative. After I made it clear there was not a police report to be taken in this situation, T [REDACTED] then asked about A [REDACTED] harassing him in the parking lot. I explained that "harassment" was not a criminal statute in Illinois. He became angry, insisting that because he was in law enforcement he knew it was, then demanded my name and badge number and left the lobby.

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A short time after all parties left the PD received a phone call from A [REDACTED], requesting us to make a record of the incident. I explained to her that until they had court papers signed by a judge she needed to keep her own records of custody issues.

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TO: Deputy Chief Salvador Tomas

FROM: Chief David Dorris

REFERENCE: T [REDACTED] P [REDACTED] (Case # 24-115)

On Monday July 29th, 2024 I, Chief David Dorris received an email from the Illinois Training and Standards Board in reference to an official complaint against myself and Officer Murrow (Tom Murrah). The email advised T [REDACTED] P [REDACTED] believed that I would not take his complaint.

Sometime after July 11th, I received a voicemail from T [REDACTED] P [REDACTED] in reference to Officer Murrow (Tom Murrah).

I contacted T [REDACTED] P [REDACTED] via phone. He advised on July 11th, he was conducting a child exchange with his future ex-wife at the Herrin Police Department located at 321 N. 14th St. He advised Officer Murrah violated his 4th amendment rights by not arresting his future ex-wife for Harassment and Child Visitation Interference. I asked Mr. P [REDACTED] what she did to harass and child custody interference. Mr. P [REDACTED] advised she allowed his 2 children to play in front of the sally port and she had stated in front of his children that he had driven drunk on the 4th of July with a family friend that was an attorney. He further stated Officer Murrah asked to see a child custody agreement signed by the judge. Mr. P [REDACTED] advised he was not able to produce the document requested by Officer Murrah. He further stated he filed the harassment complaint with the Williamson County Sheriff's Office after he had left the police department.

After listening to his statement, I advised him what he stated, did not qualify as a criminal complaint against his future ex-wife.

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After speaking with Mr. P [REDACTED], I contacted Officer Murrah and he advised me the following. Officer Murrah advised Mr. P [REDACTED] wanted to press charges against his wife because she did not allow him child visitation. Officer Murrah asked Mr. P [REDACTED] if he could provide him with the custody paperwork signed by a judge. Mr. P [REDACTED] stated he did not have any paperwork signed by a judge. Officer Murrah advised him since he could not provide a child custody document signed by a judge that it is a civil issue. Mr. P [REDACTED] then advised Officer Murrah that she had harassed him outside in the parking lot. As Officer Murrah was advising him on the harassment statute, he interrupted Officer Murrah and requested his name and badge number and exited the PD.

After speaking with officer Murrah, I did not feel that Officer Murrah had violated Mr. P [REDACTED]'s 4th Amendment rights nor fail to take a his criminal complaint because I felt it was a civil issue.


David Dorris

Chief of Police

Herrin Police Department

8/2/24